

Stated Meeting, April 14, 1846.

VICE PRESIDENT MORTON in the Chair.

DONATIONS TO MUSEUM.

Fine specimen of *Pecten Mortoni*, Ravenel; from the Miocene of South Carolina. From Dr. Morton.

An additional series of fossils from the green sand near Burlington, N. J., including also fine specimens of *Clypeaster florealis*, and *Trochus leprosus*; also a large and a small tooth and two vertebræ of *Mosasaurus occidentalis*. From Mr. Lewis Germain, of Burlington.

Dr. Morton deposited ten mummied Peruvian crania, and two entire mummied bodies in their wrappings; collected by Mr. William A. Foster, of this city, at the cemetery of Arica.

Specimen of *Pholadomya occidentalis*, from the cretaceous deposits of New Jersey. From Dr. Morton.

DONATIONS TO LIBRARY.

American Quarterly Journal of Science and Agriculture; by Drs. E. Emmons and A. J. Prince. Vol. 2, No. 2. Albany, 1845. From the Editors.

American Journal of Science and Arts. 2d Series, No. 2. March, 1846. From the Editors.

Annals of the Lyceum of Natural History of New York. Vol. 4, No. 5. New York: 1846. From the Lyceum.

Notices of new localities of rare minerals and reasons for uniting several supposed distinct species. By Francis Alger. (From the Boston Journal of Natural History.) From the Author.

Descriptions of some new species of shells. By John H. Redfield. (From the 4th vol. of Annals of Lyceum of Natural History of New York.) From the Author.

Mineral lands of the United States. A message from the President of the United States in reply to a resolution of

the House of Representatives of 6th of January last, concerning the mineral lands of the United States. From J. R. Ingersoll, Esq.

Dr. Morton read the following extract of a letter addressed to him by Prof. Bailey, of West Point.

“I have lately hit upon some processes for revealing vegetable structure in anthracite coal, which have yielded results of unhoped for interest and beauty. I get, not mere traces of parenchymatous tissue, as by Schultz’s process, described in Silliman’s Journal, No. 1, new series, but I readily obtain surfaces of *several square inches*, entirely covered over with *dotted* or *scalariform vessels*, (bothrenchyma) in so perfect a state, that their minute markings may be seen as easily as upon the vessels of a recent plant.

“I can prepare these, either as opaque or transparent objects, and all to whom I have shown them, including Torrey, Gray, Prof. Henry and others, think them very beautiful.

“A brief notice of these will appear in the forthcoming number of Silliman’s Journal.”

Dr. Morton offered some remarks upon the additional fossils from Burlington Co., N. J., presented this evening by Mr. Lewis Germain. Among the most remarkable are three specimens of *Clypeaster florealis*, of which only a single imperfect specimen had hitherto been found, and which had served the purpose of specific description. The series also contains a fine specimen of the *Trochus leprosus*, not before found north of the cretaceous beds of Alabama. The characteristic species, *Pecten quinquecostatus*, and *Baculites ovatus*, are also among Mr. Germain’s collections, together with a very large and a small tooth, and two vertebræ of the *Mosasaurus occidentalis*, in admirable preservation.

Dr. Morton also made the following observations on the Peruvian remains deposited by him this evening.

These ten crania and two mummied bodies, were exhumed from the Indian cemetery at Arica, under the direction of our

member, Mr. Wm. A. Foster, now resident in Lima. "This cemetery," observes Mr. Foster, "lies on the face of a sand-hill, sloping towards the sea. The extent of surface occupied by these tombs, as far as we explored, I should say was five or six acres. In many of the tombs three or four bodies were found clustered together, always *in the sitting posture*, and wrapped in three or four thicknesses of cloth, with a mat thrown over all."

The most interesting circumstance connected with these heads is the fact that with two exceptions they present the artificial form of horizontal elongation, though in very variable degrees. The most casual notice will convince any one, that this conformation has been in part produced by compresses on the forehead, and partly, as Dr. Goddard has suggested, by the use of simple rotary bandages. Thus a double compress has been applied to the forehead, one bearing on each side of the frontal suture of infancy; these have been kept in their places by a bandage brought from the base of the occiput obliquely over the forehead; while the parietal bones have been depressed by carrying the same bandage alternately over the top of the head, immediately behind the coronal suture.

Any person who is acquainted with the form and pliability of the infant head at or soon after birth, will readily conceive how effectually the above plan would operate in moulding the cranium into the elongated or cylindrical form; for while it prevents the anterior portion from rising, and the sides from expanding, it allows the occipital region an entire freedom of growth; and thus without diminishing the volume of the brain, merely forces it into a different, though unnatural direction, and preserves, at the same time, the symmetry of the whole structure.

The series of skulls presents, in a most satisfactory manner, all the grades of this process; leaving no longer a doubt as to the precise means by which it has been accomplished.

Stated Meeting, April 21, 1846.

VICE PRESIDENT MORTON in the Chair.

Mr. Gambel read a paper containing remarks on the birds of Upper California, which was referred to a com-